

## Message Text

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72

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 NSC-05 /071 W

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P R 292034Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9185

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0227

BOGOTA FOR MINISTER ANTHONY JURICH; GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, HA

SUBJECT: US/HAITIAN BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 009755

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ME ON JAN. 28, FOURCAND STATED HE WAS STILL UNABLE TO SIGN PROPOSED BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT AND REPEATED HIS DEC. REQUEST THAT US PROVIDE HIGHER SPECIFIC AND CONSULTATION LEVELS FOR CATEGORIES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING EXPORTED AT A RATE CONSIDREABLY HIGHER THAN AGREEMENT LEVEL. FOURCAND SAID GREATEST DIFFICULTIES FOR HAITI WERE THE SPECIFIC LIMITS ON CATEGORIES 219 AND 237, SINCE OVER 40 PERCENT OF ANNUAL QUOTA FOR THESE TWO CATEGORIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPORTED IN FIRST TWO MONTHS OF AGREEMENT YEAR (OCT. & NOV. 1974). HE ASKED THAT SPECIFIC LIMIT FOR CATEGORY 219 BE SET AT 6.4 MILLION SQUARE YARDS EQUIVALENT (RATHER THAN 3.2 MILLION AS PROPOSED BY US). AND THAT THE LIMIT FOR CATEGORY 237 BE SET AT 4.8 MILLION SQUARE YARDS (US PROPOSAL IS 1.4 MILLION). WITH RESPECT TO CONSULTATION LEVELS FOR THREE OTHER CATEGORIES (222, 233 AND 238), FOURCAND WAS LESS INSISTENT UPON NEED FOR CHANGE IN AGREEMENT LEVELS BUT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HAITI WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS ALMOST  
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IMMEDIATELY IF LEVELS NOW IN AGREEMENT ARE NOT INCREASED.

2. FOURCAND EXPLAINED THAT THE MEETING IN BOGOTA WAS NOT HELD IN SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE US BUT THAT THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED (BRAZIL, MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND HAITI) HAD SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THEY ARE WILLING TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON COTTON TEXTILES BUT ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT THEY CANNOT NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT ON SYNTHETICS UNLESS "VERY INTERESTING OFFER" RECEIVED FROM US.

3. FOURCAND STRESSED THAT HAITI COULD NOT POSSIBLY SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON SYNTHETICS UNLESS COLOMBIA, WHICH IS MORE DEVELOPED AND WHICH ALSO TAKES A LARGER SHARE OF US MARKET, SIGNED A SIMILAR AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT IF NOTES WERE EXCHANGED BETWEEN HAITI AND US TODAY, HE WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS IMMEDIATELY (UNDER TERMS OF LETTER ON EQUITABLE TREATMENT CONTAINED REFTEL) UNLESS COLOMBIA HAD SIGNED A SIMILAR AGREEMENT. AS A RESULT, UNLESS US UNILATERALLY IMPOSED QUOTAS IMMEDIATELY ON COLOMBIAN EXPORTS, QUOTAS AGAINST HAITIAN PRODUCTS COULD NOT BE ENFORCED.

4. FOURCAND GAVE IMPRESSION THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES REQUESTED IN SPECIFIC LEVELS FOR CATEGORIES 219 AND 237 MIGHT QUALIFY AS A "VERY INTERESTING OFFER" BUT HE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO THIS EFFECT.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT IN AFTERMATH OF BOGOTA CONSULTATIONS GOH WILL NOT SIGN AN AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMO INITIALED ON SEPT. 29 UNLESS EITHER MUCH GREATER PRESSURE IS BROUGHT BY THE US OR AGREEMENT IS FURTHER MODIFIED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR CONCERNS. WE ARE, ESSENTIALLY, BACK IN A NEGOTIATING POSITION. I RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT A REVIEW BE MADE OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE FACT THAT FALLOUT FROM ANY AGREEMENT WILL BE PARAMOUNT IN US/ HAITIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS IN ALL AREAS OVER NEXT TWO YEARS. (AS EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, HAITIANS BOUND TO FIND US POLICY CONTRADICTORY WHICH ON THE ONE HAND HOLDS OUT HOPE OF NEW DIALOGUE AND ON OTHER APPLIES TEXTILE RESTRICTIONS IN MANNER WHICH WILL PUT HAITIANS OUT OF WORK JUST AS COUNTRY IS STARTING TO CATCH UP WITH ITS FAR MORE ADVANCED LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS.) ONCE DECISION MADE, I RECOMMEND THAT MINISTER JURICH RETURN TO HAITI TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FOURCAND.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXTILE INDUSTRY, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTA00227  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 009755  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US/HAITIAN BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT  
**TAGS:** ETRD, HA, US, (FOURCAND)  
**To:** STATE BOGOTA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006